



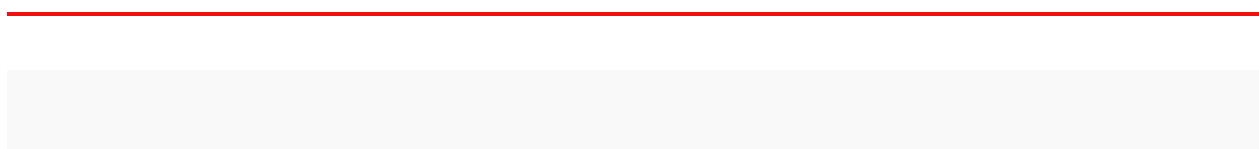
Department of
**Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services**



Never doubt that a small group of
thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world.

It is the only thing that ever has.

– Margaret Meade



A note from Commissioner Williams

As we close out the final month of Fiscal Year 2019, I want to update you on the final details of our FY20 Budget. We are truly grateful to Governor Bill Lee. His budget proposal included state funding increases in our area that set our services as a priority in the first year of his administration. During our three budget hearings in House and Senate committees, we heard again and again lawmakers' support for what we do, and that support translated into extra funding in the final budget. In all, our state-funded cost increases total \$24,469,900, and our capital budget increase is \$1,500,000. Here's a look at the numbers:

Total Approved Budget FY20	\$418,192,000
State Appropriations	\$282,492,500
Federal Revenue	\$93,072,400
Other Revenue	\$42,627,100

Here's a line-by-line look at our final cost increases:

1. Behavioral Health Safety Net: \$5,000,000

To provide recurring funding to expand the Behavioral Health Safety Net by increasing the qualifying criteria to serve approximately 7,000 uninsured adults with a serious mental illness

2. Creating Homes Initiative: \$3,000,000

To provide recurring funding to expand housing solutions for Tennesseans diagnosed with substance use disorders through the CHI.

3. Recovery Courts Program Expansion: \$1,700,000

To provide recurring funding for grants to expand recovery courts across the state. The grantees will submit data to the department for the purpose of tracking the success of the program.

4. Women's Residential Recovery Court: \$2,000,000

To provide funding for the establishment of a women's statewide residential recovery court. From this appropriation, \$500,000 is non-recurring.

5. Criminal Justice Liaisons: \$1,000,000

To provide recurring funding for one program director position and increase contracts for CJLs to serve additional counties across the state. The CJLs coordinate with local jails to provide services to incarcerated individuals who present with mental illness or substance use disorder.

6. Pre-Arrest Diversion Infrastructure Program: \$1,500,000

To provide non-recurring funding for the expansion of the Pre-Arrest Diversion programs to redirect non-violent individuals from the criminal justice system to community-based treatments and supports in underserved counties. *This appropriation is our Capital Budget Increase item.*

7. Tennessee Recovery-Oriented Compliance Strategy (TN-ROCS): \$600,000

To provide recurring funding to add six additional TN-ROCS court-initiated diversion programs.

8. Naltrexone in Recovery Courts: \$2,000,000

To provide recurring funding for a program that supplies recovery courts with long-acting, injectable naltrexone to effectively treat opioid dependence. In considering the governor's original \$1M recurring proposal, the legislature added an additional \$1M non-recurring funding.

9. Community Behavioral Health Medical Director: \$350,000

To provide recurring funding for one community behavioral health medical director to work with the Tennessee Hospital Association to expand on-site treatment services for individuals in emergency departments and hospitals across the state who present with severe and persistent mental illness.

10. Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network: \$625,000

To provide recurring funding to expand the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN). TSPN develops and oversees the implementation of suicide prevention strategies across the state.

11. Youth and Young Adult Mental Health and Awareness Promotion: \$500,000

To provide recurring funding to expand and enhance suicide prevention and mental health awareness and promotion activities across the state.

12. Regional Mental Health Institutes: \$6,194,900

To provide recurring funding for the increased cost of operation at the four RMHIs.

13. East TN Inpatient Funding: \$1,000,000

Non-recurring funding to support contracted private psychiatric hospitals in East TN.

14. County Jail Naltrexone: \$500,000

Non-recurring funding to continue and expand pilot project started in FY19 budget.

In addition to the funding increases that are in our budget, lawmakers also approved a \$4 million recurring budget item to the Department of Finance and Administration to pay for mental health transportation grants. This will set up a system to reimburse local law enforcement for their statutory duty to transport patients who are involuntarily committed to RMHs and other psychiatric hospitals.

We are very pleased with the FY20 budget, and we hope you are too. This level of funding increase is a significant show of support from Governor Lee and the General Assembly. It will allow the department and our partners in the community to continue to serve Tennesseans in new and innovative ways.

Blessings,

Marie



In April, the TN State Senate honored Commissioner Williams with a Joint Resolution in

honor of the award she received from National Council for Behavioral Health. She is pictured with Sen. Becky Massey and Sen. Rusty Crowe.

Governor Bill Lee Visits Central Office



We were honored to welcome Gov. Bill Lee and members of his staff to Central Office in April and look forward to working with his Administration!

TDMHSAS Releases Report on Crisis Intervention Teams in Tennessee

Specialized mental health training for law enforcement continues to help individuals, communities statewide





Crisis Intervention Team New Report Released

After a year-long study funded by a federal grant, TDMHSAS, NAMI TN, and partners on the CIT in Tennessee task force release their report. Watch the video to learn more.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) today [released a report on the usage of the Crisis Intervention Team techniques](#) across the state noting the successes seen in areas where the specialized training for law enforcement is improving outcomes for residents living with mental illness.

Funded by a federal grant to TDMHSAS from the U.S. Department of Justice, the study of CIT in Tennessee was conducted by the National Alliance on Mental Illness Tennessee with the support of the Tennessee Department of Correction and a statewide task force of stakeholders including law enforcement, mental healthcare professionals, advocates, and families. [Read the full press release.](#)

TDMHSAS Expands Successful Substance Abuse Treatment Connection Program

Recovery Navigators add seven additional staff, 19 counties





TN Recovery Navigators Program Expansion

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) is adding seven new team members and 19 new counties to its Tennessee Recovery Navigator program. With the expansion, the TN Recovery Navigators program is adding coverage in rural areas at both ends of the state, the Cumberland Plateau, and suburban areas around Nashville. The expanded reach means the TN Recovery Navigators will now be able to serve the 10 Tennessee counties where overdose death rates are the highest. The Recovery Navigators are people in long-term recovery from substance use disorder who serve as an access point to treatment and recovery resources. They use their lived experience to help others. [Read the full press release.](#)

TN's Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists Reach Milestone; Distributing 35,000 Naloxone Units

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) announced that its Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists (ROPS) distributed **35,000 units** of naloxone across the state from October 2017 to March 2019. More than 14,000 of the units were distributed directly to law enforcement. The ROPS are regionally-focused community trainers who work in their assigned areas

to educate people about substance use disorder, opioid overdose, and the use of naloxone. Since the program began in October 2017, ROPS have held **1,450 trainings** reaching more than **32,000 people** statewide. [Read the full press release.](#)

TDMHSAS Receives \$5 Million Healthy Transitions Grant from SAMHSA

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— A program aimed at improving the emotional and behavioral health of youth and young adults is growing to new areas of the state with the support of a new federal grant. TN Healthy Transitions is designed for youth and young adults ages, 16 to 25, who have a serious mental disorder or co-occurring intellectual developmental disability

“We know that too many of our young people are falling through the cracks and not getting the help they need for serious mental illness, sometimes with tragic consequences including suicide,” said TDMHSAS Commissioner Marie Williams, LCSW. “The transition from school-based services to adult mental health services is a critical point where young adults often get lost. With this program, we want to make sure young people receive the services and supports they need so they can maximize their potential to lead full and productive lives.” [Read the full press release.](#)

Community Coalitions Lead the Way for Another Successful Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Tennesseans safely dispose nearly 20,000 pounds of medications

National Prescription Drug Take Back Days, spearheaded by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency, are held twice a year. The most recent event was April 27, and once again, Tennessee stepped up! Citizens turned in **19,293.24 lbs. of medications at 120 take-back locations** across the state. The DEA reports 937,443 lbs. were collected nationwide from more than 6,000 sites.

If you missed April's event, expired and unused medications can be safely disposed of every day at any of Tennessee's permanent prescription boxes statewide. To find a location near you, visit this interactive map: tdeonline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/

To get involved in an anti-drug coalition, learn about substance abuse trends in your area, find resources, and help in the fight against addiction in your community, visit <https://bit.ly/2FP1xm0>.

The next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for Oct. 26, 2019.



Maury Co.



Left: Henry Co. | Right: Lauderdale Co.



Left: Scott Co. | Right: Sevier Co.



Left: Smith Co. | Williamson Co.



Great idea! Along with Take Back activities, Dyer Co. hosted a "Hidden in Plain Sight" room demonstrating the many places where drugs can be stowed in a bedroom.

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Activities Held Statewide Throughout May



Thanks to Governor Bill Lee for proclaiming May 9, 2019 as Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in the state of Tennessee and for kicking off Tennessee Voices for Children's Megaphone Campaign promoting children's mental health awareness. Gov. Lee is pictured with Commissioner Williams, Molly Rollins, Willie Voss, and Rikki Harris from TVC.

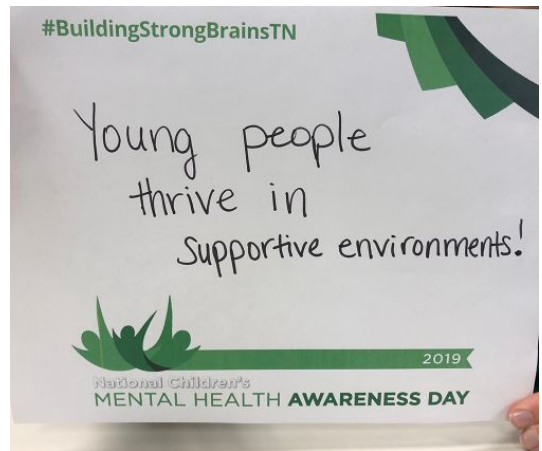
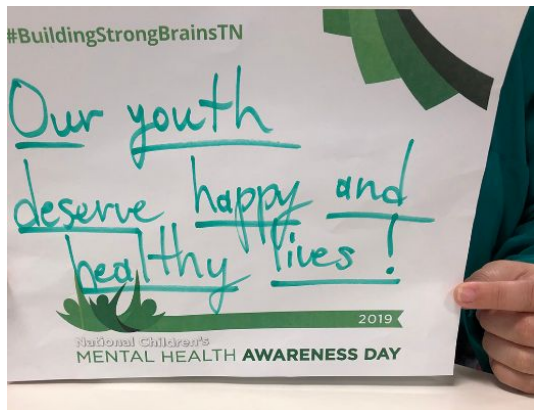
The theme for this year's Children's Mental Health Awareness Day was "Suicide Prevention: Strategies That Work." Various events were held throughout the month. The purpose is to raise awareness for community-based mental health services, promote positive brain architecture, and foster resilience in children and youth. We want to show that regardless of mental health status, youth and young adults can contribute positively to their communities.

We appreciate everyone helping to spread awareness and education about children's

mental health. Thanks, especially, to the municipalities statewide that recognized Children's Mental Health Awareness Day and to Nashville Mayor Briley who declared May 14 Adverse Childhood Experiences Awareness Day.



TDMHSAS joined System of Care Across Tennessee and providers statewide in a social media campaign with the purpose of sharing about the importance of children's mental health care and early intervention. Above are some members of Central Office who are #BuildingStrongBrainsTN, because "Kids are the Future!"





TN's Regional Intervention Program or RIP has been #BuildingStrongBrains in TN for nearly 50 years! Above are staff from Nashville's headquarters Making TN Green!

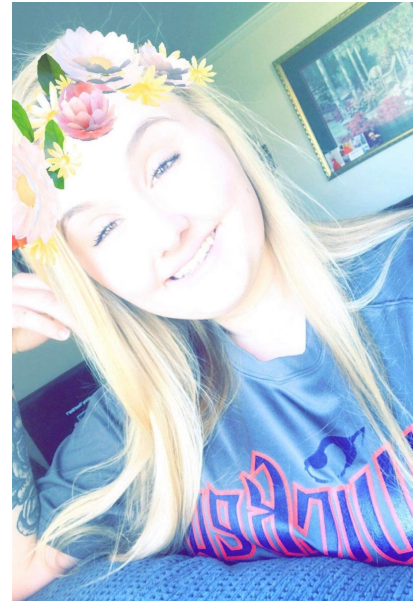


System of Care Across Tennessee (with assistance from the Statewide Young Adult Leadership Council) sharing children's mental awareness at the State of Tennessee Mental Health Resource Fair at Governor's Square Mall in Clarksville.

Meet Courtney: A Success Story from System of Care Across Tennessee

Thanks to Courtney for sharing her SOCAT success story! Here is an excerpt:

My name is Courtney, and this is my story. The old me used to not have any friends because I was mean to them. I was very depressed. I didn't really have anybody to talk to or no one to go to. The old me not only thought about suicide, I even tried it. The old me spent a lot of time alone, depressed, sad, and angry. The old me felt like I had to cut myself, and the old me thought that was the only way I could make myself feel better. In school, the old me got kicked out all the time, always for fighting. The old me used various substances to try to escape from my pain. Sure enough. The old me was in and out of the court system. The old me was straight up miserable.



Now, the new me is still becoming me. The new me is sober. I don't drink or use drugs. I have people I can talk to now. SOCAT has saved my life, helped me out, and helped make me the person I am today. I am out of the court system and will keep it that way. The new me is not as depressed as I was, and most days are good days. Not every day is good, but SOCAT has helped me know what to do when I am having trouble coping. The new me doesn't ever seriously think about suicide like I used to.

And now let's talk about school. My teachers tell me they think of me as a leader in the classroom. I'm about to graduate, dude, and I never thought I would ever walk the link, or graduate, or even get my G.E.D. I thought I would be in prison by now. But I am still here. You can't get rid of me. I work. I go to school. I am alive, and I feel good. The end, or maybe, the beginning.

MBMHI Opens Hands-On Learning Labs to Prepare Patients to Return to the Community

Submitted by Susan Feltman, Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute



Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute in Chattanooga recently celebrated the grand opening of its new "Bleyzer House Program - Bleyzing Trails Back to the Community."



The program was named for Dr. Gedaly Bleyzer (pictured, left) a former MBMHI psychiatrist who had defected from Russia to the United States due to religious and political persecution. Dr. Bleyzer, once a prominent cardiothoracic surgeon in his homeland, took up psychiatry upon coming to the United States and practiced at MBMHI until his passing in 1995. He was such a beloved, well-respected, and devoted clinician that one of the properties at MBMHI was named in his honor.

The Bleyzer House Program was developed for patients who have been in the hospital for an extended period of time and focuses on skills needed to live in the community successfully such as menu planning and preparation; basic computer skills; interviewing; budgeting and career placement. Renovations were completed at MBMHI to include a fully-functional kitchen/dining area and a computer lab to facilitate the learning labs. Participants are responsible for their own lunches as well as many other tasks each day. They learn to work as a team, dividing responsibilities, communicating, and learning from mistakes. Patients also perform community service work weekly, alternating between time spent at Habitat for Humanity and Crabtree Farms.

"Before the Bleyzer Program, I had not made a meal for myself or someone else in almost four years," said one participant. "I like taking care of myself again," said another. "And coffee, I love coffee." Participants exercise group choice and critical decision making when shopping, following recipes, and keeping safe in the kitchen lab and the community. "A person needs to take responsibility for themselves," one participant said. "When they don't have responsibilities, they lose themselves."



Bleyzer Program

Johnny Payne, Recreation Therapist (RT) II developed the program with the support of Ryan Beckett, Director of Adjunctive Therapy as well as Allison "Spring" Hughes RT II, Will Pack RT II, Tyson Keller RT II, Avery Smith RT II, and Deborah Weaver, Assistant Superintendent of Program Services. The program currently has six patients participating, and thanks to an outpouring of support from numerous departments including IT, Maintenance, Program Services, Forensics, and Adjunctive Therapy, the program is off to a successful start. Plans are to expand the program to include up to nine patients in the near future with the hope of seeing all participants successfully rejoin their communities.

*"I feel self value doing something with myself.
I have not felt that in a long time." - Bleyzer Program Participant*

Moccasin Bend Takes Healing Outdoors; Hosts "Roots for Recovery"



Tiffany L. Jones, MBMHI Recreation Therapist II, (pictured right) facilitated a garden event in April for the patients to enjoy some fresh air and learn about the therapeutic nature of gardening. At “Roots for Recovery, patients and staff had the opportunity to walk around the garden area and learn about the plants currently growing. The gardens are maintained by patients and staff and bring much joy and life to throughout different seasons of the year. Tiffany is pictured with Kathy Berger, Director of Nursing.

MTMHI's Chris Loftis Promoted to Director of Hospital Services; Moves to Central Office



Please help us welcome Chris Loftis as our new Director of Hospital Services. Chris comes to us with nine years of mental health experience working in various inpatient and outpatient positions. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Middle Tennessee State University, Chris began his career as a Case Manager in the community providing services to people with severe and persistent mental illnesses. Chris was then employed at Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital first as a Mental Health Specialist and later as the Discharge Planning Coordinator.

Chris was hired in 2014 by Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute as the Coordinator for Admissions. He was later promoted to Forensic Coordinator and most recently served as Director of the Forensic Services Program. Chris has also been a vital piece to the implementation of Electronic Clinical Records as the Project Manager for MTMHI. Chris was born and raised in Gallatin, where he currently resides with his wife, Nancy, and their children, Emery (3), and newborn Maven.

TDMHSAS Trainers Recognized at Learning & Development Conference



Congratulations to the TDMHSAS training staff recognized at the 2019 Learning and Development Conference held in April. Alyssa Cave and Cris Pollard (both pictured to the right of the certificate) were recognized for earning a 99% completion rate for Level 1 supervisor training in the Department of Human Resources Learning Pyramid. We're pleased to also report that TDMHSAS has one of the highest completion rates of any department in the state.

TDMHSAS Partners With Other State Agencies to Share About Behavioral Health and Services Available

During the month of May, TDMHSAS partnered with our friends at [Benefits Administration](#) to host a series of four lunch and learn sessions on various mental health topics including addiction treatment and recovery, anxiety, and suicide prevention. The events were designed to explore a mental health topic and better connect state employees to their behavioral health benefits. Around 200 people participated in-person at the four sessions and through virtual attendance. State employees can learn more and access their behavioral health benefits (including 5 free EAP counseling sessions) at this website www.here4tn.com or by calling 855-HERE-4TN.

The TN Department of Finance & Administration is bringing the "Be the One" Workforce Suicide Prevention Training to interested staff with workshops offered from May to December. Created by the TDMHSAS Office of Crisis Services & Suicide Prevention, this

training equips staff members with tools and resources to ultimately save lives within the workplace and beyond.

Three key components of the campaign:

1. Provides suicide awareness and social marketing strategies by providing information regarding suicide and serves as a reminder that suicide can happen at any time to anyone.
2. Teaches participants how to recognize when someone may be thinking about suicide, how to ask the question directly and offers tips on how to develop good listening skills, which is a key component of suicide prevention.
3. Provides postvention suggestions in the event a suicide occurs to someone in the workforce.



For more information on how YOU can “Be the One” and to get involved in suicide prevention in the workplace and beyond, send inquiries to BeTheOne.Info@tn.gov

Elizabeth King, Quinco, is this Quarter's Outstanding Crisis Services Employee

Congratulations to crisis responder Elizabeth King, Quinco, for being chosen as our most recent Crisis Services Outstanding Employee! "We are so proud to have Elizabeth working with us as a crisis responder," said Jeff Helton, Director of Crisis Services, at Quinco Mental Health Centers. "Elizabeth has passed my expectations as a crisis responder, and I am very confident for her to take on any call. I have allowed other new workers to shadow her to learn to be an effective crisis responder."

Elizabeth says she chose this career path because she wants the world to be a better place when she leaves it. "I think the best place to start is with people. In this area of mental health, we tend to



see people when they are at their lowest," she said. My favorite part of this job is seeing the positive impact treatment has on the lives of individuals and their families. . . . I think that is beautiful, worth talking about and certainly worth doing."

Colleague Kelly Odum was one of the Quinco staff members who nominated Elizabeth. "Elizabeth should be acknowledged because she is caring, compassionate, and persistent, as well as a team player. She is helpful and passionate about her job." Mandy Vandives added, "Elizabeth can often be seen leaving the office multiple times a day responding to the needs of those in crisis. She always maintains a sweet, kind demeanor. She goes above and beyond to help those in crisis, ensuring that they are safe and stable. She is a selfless individual."

Thank you for the work you do, Elizabeth! To nominate an outstanding crisis worker for this honor, visit <http://bit.ly/2Wil3DW>

Conference Celebrates the Success, Growth of IPS Supported Employment



Tennessee's 2019 Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment Conference, held May 10 in Nashville, celebrated the impactful work being done to help people affected by mental illness find employment. Mark Liverman, TDMHSAS Director of Wellness & Employment, (pictured left) helped open the conference. Keynote speaker, Melody Riefer, shared her personal story of employment and energized attendees. The crowd also got inspiration from Commissioner Williams and DHS Commissioner Danielle Barnes,

pictured below.

Congratulations to **Sean Bain** on winning this year's Employer IPS Champion award. Sean has been an advocate for hiring people with disabilities for many years in Chattanooga and was recognized for his work with AIM Center, Inc. More congrats

to **Joseph Ryan** on winning the Working Member IPS Champion award. He gained employment through IPS services provided by Frontier Health. Joseph couldn't attend the conference because he was in training to be a pharmacy technician at Walgreens! To everyone working in Supported Employment, keep up the good work!



Images provided by TAMHO/Tony Young Photography.

Post-Disaster Recovery Conference Welcomes First Responders; the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services

The 2019 Behavioral Health and Disaster Preparedness Conference held May 30



brought together behavioral health and emergency management professionals, first responders, and experts in the field of disaster recovery including Dr. Joshua Barnes, Acting Director, Recovery Division, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (pictured above). Sessions included a panel on recognizing and mitigating the long-term impact of disaster

on children and youth and a tabletop exercise that gave participants a hypothetical disaster situation to evaluate and respond to. This conference - a partnership with TDMHSAS, Tennessee Department of Health, and the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations - was offered free to the public.



TN's Young Adult Leadership Council Celebrates Achievements; Plans for the Future While Recruiting New Members

Submitted by Jules Wilson, TDMHSAS Youth & Young Adult Coordinator/YALC

This spring, the Statewide Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC) has a lot to celebrate

– a rise in attendance numbers, a new meeting space, and the promise of another five years of funding, thanks to the new Healthy Transitions: Improving Life Trajectories (HT-ILT) grant awarded by SAMHSA. Jessica Mullins, TDMHSAS Director of Youth and Young Adult Initiatives, delivered the good news in person. We were happy to gather in the Tennessee Association for Alcohol, Drug, and other Addiction Services/TAADAS conference room and discussed our goals for the council's future.

Gigi Pasley, Crystal Hutchins, Garrett Spurlin, Joseph Valinor, and Jordan Scruggs participated on the first ever Statewide Young Adult Leadership Council Panel Discussion at April's Council on Children's Mental Health (CCMH) meeting. The YALC closed out the meeting with an hour of insightful dialogue about what it means to be a young adult in 2019 and the necessity of normalizing mental health in our society, particularly in schools. It was a fantastic opportunity for the YALC to be highlighted as content experts and share their valuable experiences and knowledge with CCMH. We are hoping this will invite future opportunities for speaking engagements, technical assistance, and leadership for the YALC members.

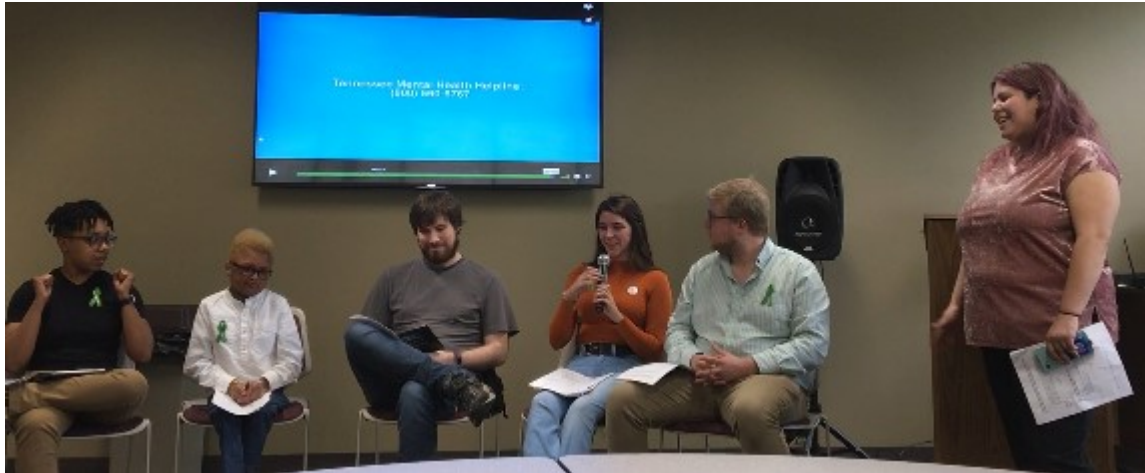
Members of the council also participated in community events this May for Children's Mental Health Awareness Month. They educated the public on what the council does, the importance of sharing your voice with others, and invited them to do just that by participating in the Humans in Real Life campaign. This campaign encourages people to speak out about mental health issues and to pose for a picture to accompany their statement.



Gaining professional development, community service, and leadership skills aren't all that the Statewide Young Adult Leadership Council is about. The YALC is a place for young people who share these experiences of mental illness, substance abuse, and/or systems involvement to come together and be their authentic selves. They will find a welcoming, non-judgmental place where they can make friends and grow in their recovery and wellness journeys. Gigi puts it best. "I always love meeting new people and getting to be a part of their support systems."

Our next meetings are scheduled for June 8, July 20, and August 3 in Nashville. Food is provided and transportation reimbursement is available. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Statewide Young Adult Leadership Council, or you would like to

discuss an opportunity for collaboration with the YALC, please don't hesitate to contact me at jules.wilson@tn.gov or text/call 615-878-0043.



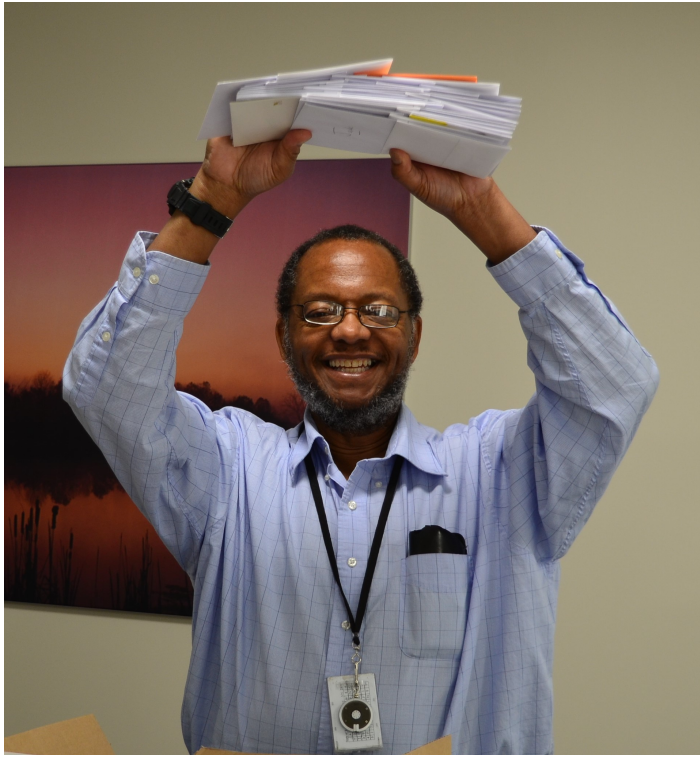
Top photo, counterclockwise: YALC members Joseph Valinor, Jules Wilson, and Rebekah Lewis volunteering at a Children's Mental Health Awareness event. Bottom photo: A moment captured at a recent YALC meeting where ideas are openly expressed and welcomed.

Central Office Bids Happy Retirement to Two Beloved Colleagues

Jackie Holcomb started his career with the State of Tennessee in 1996 at the Cloverbottom Campus as a Tech. He transitioned from Cloverbottom to TennCare where he focused on policy creation and implementation. Several of the policies he wrote are still in use.

In 2009, he came to work for the TDMHSAS Office of Licensure as a Mental Health Licensure Surveyor. Jackie is pictured with stack of cards gifted from his colleagues. Jackie is known for distributing annual Christmas cards to every Central Office employee; we repaid the favor. He is also a veteran. Thank you, Jackie, for your service to our country and to the State of Tennessee!

Andre Gibson celebrated 30 years of state service with a retirement celebration at Central Office. Andre became a TN state employee in 1989 when he joined the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Ten years later, he transferred to the Department of Commerce and Insurance.



In June 2002, Andre joined the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Though technically a Mail Clerk 2, he performed a variety of duties, bringing his humor and personality to every job. Thanks for your service, Andre aka "The Mayor of Deaderick Street." (Image by Kris Jernighan)



Healing Arts Project Seeking Submissions

From Writers "Living with Courage"



healingartsprojectinc.org

Healing Arts Project, Inc. (HAPI) is looking for writers to submit works for their "Faith, Hope and Recovery in Letters 2019" booklet to be published this fall in conjunction with Mental Health Illness Awareness Week.

Share your thoughts on resiliency, recovery, hope, strength, or success in the face of adversity and life experiences. You can submit a poem, personal essay, or short story. The theme this year is "Living with Courage," celebrating and honoring the truth that it often takes courage to rise up to meet our daily personal challenges.

Contributions are welcome from persons in mental health and addiction recovery as well as their family members, counselors, advocates, and mental health or addiction recovery professionals. Artworks to illustrate the writings will also be accepted.

Deadline for entry is Friday, June 28, 2019. For more information, [visit this link](#).

Regional Planning & Policy Council Meetings Continue in July

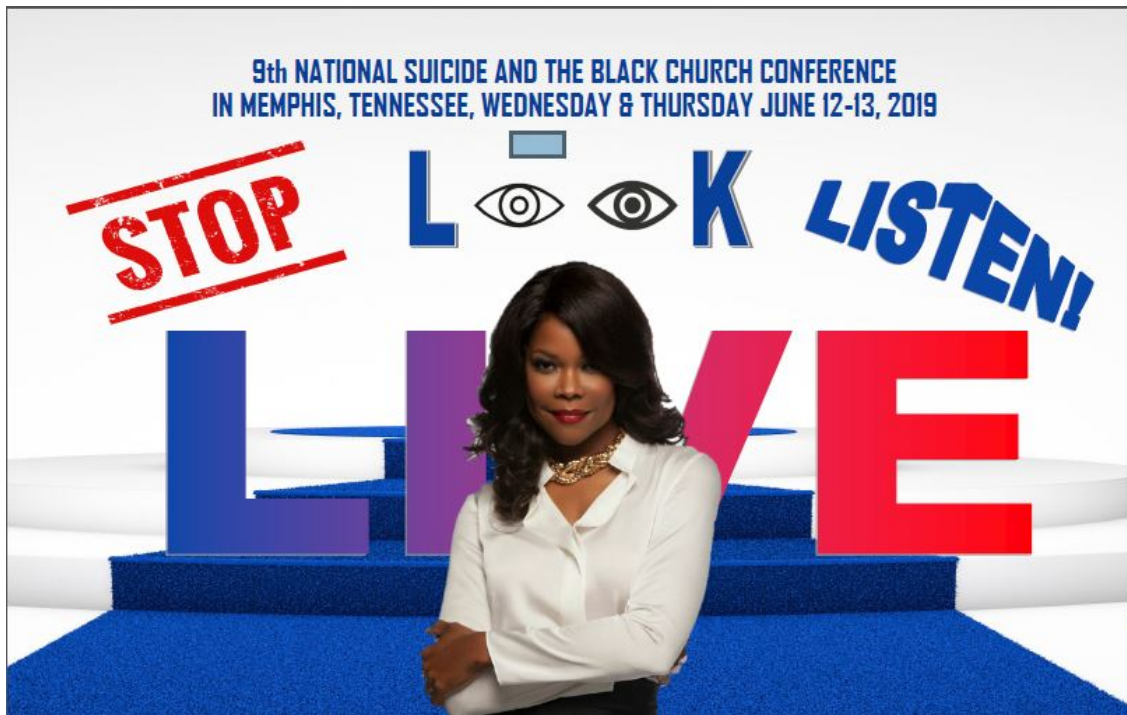
For a list of all scheduled TDMHSAS Planning & Policy Council meetings, including Statewide and Committee meetings, [please visit our website](#). Meeting dates are subject to change.

Upcoming Regional Planning & Policy Council Meetings

Region VI	Tuesday, July 9	1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. CT	Pathways 238 Summar Drive Jackson, TN 38301
Region III	Thursday, July 18	10 a.m. - 12 p.m. ET	AIM Center 472 W. MLK Blvd. Chattanooga, TN 37402

Region VII	Tuesday, July 23	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. CT	Lowenstein House East 6590 Kirby Center Cove, Suite 103 Memphis, TN 38115
Region V	Thursday, August 1	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CT	TAADAS 1321 Murfreesboro Pike, Suite 130 Nashville, TN 37217
Region I	Tuesday, August 6	10 a.m. - 12 p.m. ET	Frontier Health Corporate Offices 1167 Spratlin Park Drive Gray, TN 37615
Region IV	Wednesday, August 7	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. CT	TAADAS 1321 Murfreesboro Pike, Suite 130 Nashville, TN 37217
Region II	Wednesday, August 14	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. ET	Helen Ross McNabb Center, Training Room 201 W. Springdale Ave. Knoxville, TN 37917

**June 12-13: Gov. Bill Lee, Angela Robinson
Slated to Attend National Suicide & the Black
Church Conference; Tickets Available**



To register, call 901-370-4673 or email: thcsuicideconference@gmail.com.

And Coming in October . . . !



Sponsored By

**SUICIDE PREVENTION AND THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN FAITH
COMMUNITIES COALITION (SPAFFCC)**

10 • 17 • 19 | 8AM - 3:30PM

Community Fellowship Hall
St. James Missionary Baptist Church 600
28th Ave N. Nashville, TN 37209



Tennessee Certified Peer Recovery Specialists:
**Trailblazing
the Peer Frontier!**

2019 Conference

Featuring keynote speaker: Dr. Stephen Loyd

October 6-7

Who's **blazing trails** out there?

Nominations for 2019 CPRS Awards open **July 1!**

WILL YOU JOIN US?

Get ready to blaze a trail to . . .



Millenium Maxwell House

2025 Rosa L. Parks Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37228

To reserve your room: Call (615) 259-4343.
Ask for the 2019 CPRS conference block.

*Be on the lookout,
trailblazers!*

More to come . . .

#TogetherInRecovery
#TNPeerSupport

tn.gov/behavioral-health/CPRS

**Save-the-Date: Two-Day Faith & Recovery
Conference to Debut in Nashville in November**

SAVE THE DATE

November 7th and 8th 2019

FAITH & RECOVERY NAVIGATING THE LIFELINE



Trevecca Nazarene University | 333 Murfreesboro Pike | Nashville, TN 37210

In the event of a **MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY:**

Call 855-CRISIS-1

***855-274-7471**

For confidential help
from a caring crisis professional
in your area, available
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This is a free call.

You can also text TN to 741741.



To learn more about Crisis Services in the State of Tennessee, [visit our website.](#)

For questions about substance abuse treatment,

Call the Tennessee REDLINE

800-889-9789

*We hope you've enjoyed this issue of the Update!
If you have news to share (a story idea, accomplishment,
provider news, etc.) or if you'd like to be added to the
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